Quality of Rail Neer

689. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Rail Neer", the packaged drinking water reportedly bottled at the Railway's own bottling plant in Delhi has been introduced for sale at the Railway platforms recently;

(b) if so, the details of the projects, including steps taken to ensure that the quality of the bottled water conforms to international standards;

(c) plans drawn up, if any, for setting up other similar bottling plants in other parts of the country; and

(d) status of the contracts with the existing vendors supplying packaged water to the railways in different regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rail Neer is being made available at important Railway stations of Northern and North Central Railways, from the Rail Neer plant at Nangloi, Delhi. The plant is completed owned by Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC). Rail Neer has been tested and it conforms to the laid down stadards of Bureau of Indian Statndards.

(c) Another "Rail Neer" plant at Danapur, Patna is in an advanced stage of construction.

(d) As per policy "Rail Neer" will be the exclusive brand of packaged drinking water to be sold on Indian Railways. The regions which are, at present not covered under Rail Neer Plants are procuring BIS certified packaged drinking water.

Density of Rail Routes in M.P.

690. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway route length per thousand square km. of area in Madhya Pradesh as on 31st March, 2001;